



By the King.

His Maiesties Proclamation, requiring the Residencie of Noblemen, Gentlemen, Lieutenants, and Iustices of Peace, vpon their chiefe Mansions in the Countrey, for the better maintenance of Hospitalitie, and discharge of their duties.



He decay of Hospitalitie in all the parts of this Our Kingdome, so much the more increaseth, by reason that Noblemen, Knights, and Gentlemen of qualitie, doe rather fall to a more priuate and delicate course of life, after the manner in forreine Countreys, by liuing in Cities and Townes, then continue the ancient and laudable custome of this Realme in housekeeping vpon the principall Seates and Mansions in the Countrey, whereby there was wont to be more mutuall comfort betweene the Nobles and Gentlemen, and the inferiour sort of Commons in this Our Kingdome, (to the great strength and renowne thereof,) then in any other Kingdome of Europe, which course of alteration to the worse, we hold to be a disorder and inconuenience by all good policie to be remedied.

But the absence of Our Lieutenants, Deputie Lieutenants, and Iustices of Peace out of the Shires where they beare charge and Office, carrieth in it selfe a plaine neglect and contempt of that trust and charge which we haue layd vpon them, and for which they are answerable: So as we hold them in degree of great Offendours, and subiect to seuerer censure, the rather for that it doeth manifestly tend to the hinderance of ordinary Justice, the discontinuance and weakening of Our service, to the increase and multiplying of Roagues, Vagabonds and Beggars, and to the breeding of an vnreadinesse in the Countrey, either for the suppressing of Ryots, tumults and disorders, or for the performing and executing of Our Royal Commandements, vpon any suddaine euent.

For the redresse of all which inconueniences, we, out of Our Princely care of the common good, do hereby admonish and require all Noblemen, and Gentlemen whatsoeuer, to liue in the steps and examples of their worthy Ancestours, by keeping and entertaining Hospitalitie, and charitable relieuing of the poore according to their estate and meanes, not thinking themselues borne for themselves, and their families alone, but for the publique good and comfort of their Countrey, letting them know, that besides their owne well deserving and good fame, and loue among the people, it shall be a meanes for them to purchase our good opinion and fauour, as the contrary shall not passe without Our note and dislike.

And to the end that this Our pleasure and direction may be the more effectually performed, wee doe straightly command our Chancellour of England, that he doe forthwith discharge and put out of Commission of the Peace, and of Oyer and Terminer (When time shall serue) all such as doe not ordinarily remaine and reside in the Countreys where they are in Commission, except it be great and eminent persons of speciall place and attendance about Our Selve, or Our deare and welbeloued Consort the Queene, or Our dearely beloued Sonne the Prince: And likewise for the time to come, that Our sayd Chancellour retaine none in Commission of Oyer and Terminer, or of the Peace from time to time, but such as shall liue and remaine at lest nine moneths of the yeere, in the Shires where they are in Commission, and for that purpose, that Our Judges in their Circuits take knowledge of the same, and certifie Our Chancellour accordingly:

Willing all persons to whom it may appertaine, to obserue the premises, as they tender Our indignation and displeasure, and as they will answere the contrary at their vttermost perils.

Giuen at New-market the ninth day of December, in the thirteenth yeere of Our Reigne of Great Britaine, France and Ireland, and of Scotland, the nine and fortieth.

God saue the King.



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